

**Amendment to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of VoIP load management to assure voice quality in a packet switched network, comprising:

determining a number of VoIP calls currently active in the packet switched network;

determining ~~the~~a maximum number of VoIP calls the packet switched network can facilitate without the loss of voice quality;

allowing the admission of a new VoIP call when ~~the~~ addition of the new VoIP call would not exceed the maximum number of VoIP calls; and

blocking the admission of a new VoIP call when the addition of the new VoIP call would exceed the maximum number of VoIP calls; and wherein

determining the maximum number of VoIP calls the packet switched network can facilitate without the loss of voice quality comprises determining bandwidth for a plurality of communication links between a plurality of gateway pools, determining the number of frames per IP packet used to transmit data in the packet switched network, and generating a capacity table indicating the maximum number of VoIP calls permitted to the plurality of communication links based on the bandwidth of each communication link and the frames per IP packet.

2. Cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice.

3. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 21, further comprising:

accessing the capacity table whenever a new VoIP call requests entry to the packet switched network.

4. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 21, wherein packet switched network further comprises:

a plurality of gateway pools, wherein each gateway pool has in operation would have a plurality of communication devices connected to a gateway computer.

5. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the plurality of gateway pools further comprises:

at least one of the plurality of gateway pools having has a gateway keeper gatekeeper which provides address translation and bandwidth management of the VoIP calls.

6. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 5, wherein the gateway keeper resolves IP addresses and gatekeeper manages access of the VoIP calls to the packet switched network.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium and executable by a computer for VoIP load management to assure voice quality in a packet switched network, comprising:

determining a number of VoIP calls currently active in the packet switched network;

determining the a maximum number of VoIP calls the packet can facilitate without the loss of voice quality;

allowing the admission of a new VoIP call when the addition of the new VoIP call would not exceed the maximum number of VoIP calls; and

blocking the admission of a new VoIP call when the addition of the new VoIP call would exceed the maximum number of VoIP calls; and wherein

determining the maximum number of VoIP calls the packet switched network can facilitate without loss of voice quality comprises determining the bandwidth for a plurality of communication links between a plurality of gateway pools, determining the number of frames per IP packet used to transmit data in the packet switched network, and generating a capacity table indicating the maximum number of VoIP calls permitted for the plurality of communication link based on the bandwidth of each communication link and the frames per IP packet.

8. Cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice

9. (Currently Amended) The computer program recited in claim-87, further comprising:

accessing the capacity table whenever a new VoIP call requests entry to the packet switched network.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer program recited in claim-87, wherein ~~packet switched network~~ further comprises:

~~a plurality of gateway pools, wherein each gateway pool would have~~  
has in operation a plurality of communication devices connected to a gateway computer.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer program recited in claim 10, wherein ~~the plurality of gateway pools~~ further comprises:

at least one of the plurality of gateway pools ~~having~~ has a ~~gateway~~ keeper gatekeeper which provides address translation and bandwidth management of the VoIP calls.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer program recited in claim 11, wherein ~~the gateway keeper~~ resolves IP addresses and gatekeeper manages access of the VoIP calls to the packet switched network.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of VoIP load management to assure voice quality in a packet switched network, comprising:

transmitting a ping request to an originating gateway by a gatekeeper;

transmitting a ping IP address to a destination gateway by the originating gateway;

echoing a reply to the originating gateway by the destination gateway;

determining a round trip time for the transmitting the ping request and echoing of the reply; and

allowing access of a new VoIP call to the packet switched network when the round trip time is less than a predetermined value.

14. (Original) The method recited in claim 13, wherein the round trip time is an average of two round trips to and from the originating gateway and the destination gateway.

15. (Original) The method recited in claim 13, wherein the round trip time is a second round trip time of two round trips to and from the originating gateway and the destination gateway.

16. (Original) The method recited in claim 15, further comprising:  
blocking the new VoIP call when the round trip time exceeds the predetermined value.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium and executable by a computer program for VoIP load management to assure voice quality in a packet switched network, comprising:

transmitting a ping request to an originating gateway by a gatekeeper;

transmitting a ping IP address to a destination gateway by the originating gateway;

echoing a reply to the originating gateway by the destination gateway;

determining a round trip time for the transmitting the ping request and echoing of the reply; and

allowing access of a new VoIP call to the packet switched network when the round trip time is less than a predetermined value.

18. (Original) The computer program recited in claim 17, wherein the round trip time is an average of two round trips to and from the originating gateway and the destination gateway.

19. (Original) The computer program recited in claim 17, wherein the round trip time is a second round trip time of two round trips to and from the originating gateway and the destination gateway.

20. (Original) The computer program recited in claim 19, further comprising:

blocking the new VoIP call when the round trip time exceeds the predetermined value.

**21. (New) The method recited in claim 1 wherein:**  
determining the number of frames is a number of TRAU frames.

**22. (New) The computer program recited in claim 7 wherein:**  
determining the number of frames is a number of TRAU frames.